

Seventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 4-6 September 2017.

Statement given under Compliance (item 8 (g) of the revised provisional agenda).

Mr. President,

The Dubrovnik Action Plan calls on all States Parties to promote compliance with and reinforce the norms established by the Convention. Since its adoption in Oslo in 2008, the Convention has led to widespread stigmatization of cluster munitions.

The progress made to universalize the Convention since the last MSP is evidence of the growing strength of this norm. Norway warmly welcomes Madagascar and Benin as new States Parties to the Convention. **We also welcome the announced accession to the CCM made by South Sudan this morning.**

However, we still see instances of use, and civilians in Syria and Yemen continue to fall victim to the new use of cluster munitions. We are deeply concerned about such use and call on all parties to these conflicts to immediately cease using cluster munitions, and to take measures to protect civilians from the threat that they pose.

Universalization is not just about the number of States Parties. It is also about upholding the norms of the Convention. We must work actively to dissuade potential users from employing cluster munitions and speak out against such use when it occurs. Norway condemns any use of cluster munitions by any actor.

We should also be frank about the slowdown in the universalization rate. To reach the goal in the Dubrovnik Action Plan of 130 States Parties in 2020, it is clear that we have to intensify our efforts at all levels. We strongly encourage those states that have signed, but not ratified the convention, to do so without delay.

At a time when international humanitarian principles and norms are gravely disrespected and under pressure in many country contexts, it is of the utmost importance to defend and maintain the norm that has been established by this Convention.

Thank you.